

Why Write a Grant?

Writing a grant starts with a teacher's personal desire to be the best. Winning a grant for a project that will improve the learning experience for students is one of the best ways to be recognized as a leader in the field of education. The ACPS Grants Office is here to help teachers find the funding and successfully guide them through this noble endeavor.

Follow the Tips below and you will be a success:

1. Be brave

Take the first step and say it out loud, "*I am going to write a grant and win it for my kids!*" Teachers write grants all the time for one main reason – it works! There are thousands of available grants and not all of them are competitive – you just need to explain what you want to do and why. If this is your first attempt, then stay under \$1,000 and see how it goes.

2. Less is More

Just write a simple proposal for a clear project/idea. Make sure to follow the grantee's instructions and cover all the criteria, but no more. Keeping it simple starts with the abstract or objective; then lay out the specifics of the project in bullet points, being sure to cover everything that is required.

3. Follow the logic of Grantee's Criteria

Make the reviewers' job easier by matching your headings and subheadings directly with the selection criteria in the request for proposal. Keep the same order and heading consistent with the grantee's instructions.

4. No Acronyms and/or Edu-Talk

Nowhere in your grant should the following sentence appear: "This study will review and synthesize existing classroom evidence in educational science that will shift the paradigm within Special Education on what is the number of learners that lead to most effective learning in a classroom." Reviewers will be much happier to read: "We will determine what the best teacher student ratio is for Special Education student learning."

5. Incorporate SMART Goals

Make sure to use specific measurable goals. For example: After completing the project, students will demonstrate 20% growth in their ability to identify constellations.

6. Make your Project is Cross-Curricular Wherever Possible

Including math and science skills into a social studies project will get you more bang for your buck. Science requires reading and writing – so emphasizing reading and/or writing skills can only bolster your proposal. Lastly, always try to include technology – I pads, Smartboards, web related searches and web based presentations can only strengthen your proposal.

7. Seek out help from Colleagues and the ACPS Grants Office

The ACPS Grants Office is here to support teachers in their effort to take on this noble challenge. Do not let this unbelievable opportunity go by, this is a chance to professionally improve as well as make a significant difference in the education of your students.

Bibliography

McCabe, C. (n.d.). *Write a Grant*. Retrieved August 26, 2014, from NEA National Education Association: <http://www.nea.org/home/10476.htm>